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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Item 15 (c)
ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COURT
OF JUSTICE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Deputy Registrar of the International Court of Justice, by a cable dated 14 August 1991, informed the Secretary-General of the death of Judge Taslim Olawale Elias (Nigeria) on 14 August 1991, and of the occurrence of a vacancy in the Court as a result. Judge Elias had been a member of the Court since 6 February 1976, and having been re-elected to serve as from 6 February 1985, his second term of office would have ended on 5 February 1994. According to Article 14 of the Statute of the Court, the vacancy must be filled by the same method as that laid down for the regular election and the Secretary-General is required, within one month of the occurrence of the vacancy, to issue invitations for nominations provided for in Article 5. Also pursuant to Article 14, the Security Council is to fix the date of the election.

2. The Security Council was informed of this vacancy by a note of the Secretary-General (S/22959) dated 16 August 1991 and, pursuant to Article 14 of the Statute of the Court, decided by its resolution 708 (1991) of 28 August 1991 that the election to fill the vacancy should take place on 5 December 1991, at a meeting of the Security Council and at a meeting of the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. The General Assembly was also informed of this vacancy and the decision of the Security Council (A/46/192). At the suggestion of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly decided to include an additional sub-item in the agenda of the forty-sixth session entitled "Election of a member of the International Court of Justice" (item 15 (c)).

3. Pursuant to Article 5, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court, the Secretary-General, in a communication dated 28 August 1991, invited the national groups of States parties to the Statute of the Court to undertake the nomination of persons in a position to accept the duties of a member of the Court. The Secretary-General further requested that nominations should be received no later than 28 November 1991. A list of the nominations received by that date and the curricula vitae of the candidates received will be transmitted in separate documents to the General Assembly and the Security Council. The names of the candidates will appear on the ballot papers to be distributed during the election.

4. Article 15 of the Statute of the Court provides that a member of the Court elected to replace a member whose term of office has not expired shall hold office for the remainder of his predecessor's term. The member elected to replace Judge Taslim Olawale Elias will thus serve until 5 February 1994.

5. The present composition of the Court and the procedure in the General Assembly and the Security Council for filling the vacancy are described below.

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II. COMPOSITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

6. The present composition of the International Court of Justice is as follows:

President: Sir Robert Yewdall Jennings (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)***

Vice-President: Shigeru Oda (Japan)*

Judges: Manfred Lachs (Poland)*
Roberto Ago (Italy)**
Stephen M. Schwebel (United States)**
Mohammed Bedjaoui (Algeria)**
Ni Zhengyu (China)*
Jens Evensen (Norway)*
Nikolai Tarassov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)**
Gilbert Guillaume (France)***
Mohammed Shahabuddeen (Guyana)**
Andrés Aguilar Mawdsley (Venezuela)***
Christopher G. Weeramantry (Sri Lanka)***
Raymond Ranjeva (Madagascar)***

* Term of office expires on 5 February 1994.

** Term of office expires on 5 February 1997.

*** Term of office expires on 5 February 2000.

III. PROCEDURE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

7. The election will take place in accordance with the following provisions:

(a) The Statute of the Court, in particular Articles 2 to 4, 7 to 12 and 14;

(b) Rules 150 and 151 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

(c) Rules 40 and 61 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council.

8. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 264 (III) of 8 October 1948, Nauru, San Marino and Switzerland, which are parties to the Statute of the Court but not members of the United Nations, have been invited to participate in the General Assembly in electing members of the Court in the same manner as the States Members of the United Nations.

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9. On the date of the election, the General Assembly and the Security Council will proceed, independently of one another, to elect a member of the Court to fill the vacancy (Article 8 of the Statute).

10. According to Article 2 of the Statute, judges are to be elected, regardless of their nationality, from among persons of high moral character, who possess the qualifications required in their respective countries for appointment to the highest judicial offices, or are jurisconsults of recognized competence in international law. Article 9 requires electors to bear in mind not only that the person to be elected should individually possess the qualifications required, but also that in the body as a whole the representation of the main forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems of the world should be assured.

11. The candidate who obtains an absolute majority of votes both in the General Assembly and in the Security Council will be considered as elected (Article 10, paragraph 1, of the Statute).

12. The consistent practice of the United Nations has been to interpret the words "absolute majority" as meaning a majority of all electors. The electors in the General Assembly are all the Member States, together with the three non-member States mentioned in paragraph 8 above that are parties to the Statute of the Court. Accordingly, as at the date of the present memorandum, 85 votes constitute an absolute majority in the Assembly for the purpose of the Court election.

13. In the Security Council, eight votes constitute an absolute majority and no distinction is made between permanent and non-permanent members of the Council (Article 10, paragraph 2, of the Statute).

14. Only those candidates whose names appear on the ballot papers are eligible for election. The electors in the General Assembly and in the Security Council will indicate the candidate for whom they wish to vote by placing a cross against the name on the ballot paper. Each elector may vote for only one candidate.

15. If in the first ballot, in either the General Assembly or the Security Council, no candidate receives an absolute majority, a second ballot will be held and balloting will continue in the same meeting until a candidate has obtained the required majority (rule 151 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly and rule 61 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council).

16. When a candidate has obtained the required majority in one of the organs, the President of that organ will notify the President of the other organ of the name of that candidate. Such notification is not communicated by the President of the second organ to the members until that organ has itself given a candidate the required majority of votes.

17. If, upon comparison of the name of the candidate so selected by the General Assembly and by the Security Council, it is found that the result is

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different, the Assembly and the Council will proceed, again independently of one another, in a second meeting and, if necessary, a third meeting, to elect one candidate by further ballots, the results again being compared after one candidate has obtained an absolute majority in each organ. If necessary, the above procedure will be repeated until the General Assembly and the Security Council have given an absolute majority of votes to the same candidate.

18. If, however, after the third meeting, the vacancy still remains unfilled, the special procedure set out in Article 12 of the Statute of the Court may be resorted to at the request of either the General Assembly or the Security Council.



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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Letter dated 8 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a statement of the European Community and its member States on Zambia, issued on 6 November 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 30.

(Signed) Robert J. VAN SCHAİK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement by the European Community and its member States on
the elections in Zambia, issued on 6 November 1991

The Community and its member States warmly welcome the fact that the recent elections in Zambia have been conducted in an exemplary democratic way, for which all those who have contributed are to be commended.

The Community and its member States convey their sincere congratulations to Mr. Frederick Chiluba on his election as President of the Republic of Zambia and extend their best wishes for continued success for the Government and prosperity for the people of Zambia.



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and (h), 78 and 79

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LEAGUE
OF ARAB STATES

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION; ENVIRONMENT;
DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT; HUMAN SETTLEMENTS; SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE
GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

Letter dated 11 November 1991 from the Permanent
Representative of Egypt to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Final Declaration adopted at the Arab Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development held at Cairo between 10 and 12 September 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 34, 77 (e), (f), (g) and (h), 78 and 79.

(Signed) Nabil A. ELARABY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Arab Declaration on Environment and Development and Future Perspectives issued by the Arab Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, Cairo, 10-15 September 1991

We the Arab Ministers responsible for environment, representing the Arab States, whose countries cover an area of 14 million square kilometres situated in the continents of Asia and Africa and representing human resources amounting to more than 220 million persons, diversified natural resources at sea and on land and abundant sources of energy, both renewable (such as solar energy) and non-renewable (such as petroleum and natural gas), which have participated in the building of the edifice of civilization and scientific progress and whose contributions have been in harmony with the protection, preservation and safeguarding of the environment,

Recalling the Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment of 1972 and affirming and renewing our commitment to its principles relating to the protection and enhancement of the environment at the international level in a spirit of cooperation between all peoples,

Reaffirming the environmental principles and policies set forth in the Arab Declaration on Environment and Development of 1986,

Taking into consideration resolution 44/228 of the United Nations General Assembly concerning the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which refers to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, and affirming the importance of the Arab States' participation in this Conference, in the belief that sustainable development is the way to protect the region's resources for the benefit of present and future generations,

Emphasizing the distinctive character of the Arab region, which was and still is the cradle of civilizations and revealed religions that enjoin concern for man and the environment and also for shared heritage and history and the homogeneous geographical location that affects and is affected by the natural environment as a result of development and human activities,

Realizing that the preservation of the environment may unquestionably be achieved through the combating of the basic obstacles that stand in the way, namely, poverty, ignorance and disease, and affirming therefore the necessity of promoting efforts to reduce the development gap between industrialized and developing States,

Deeply concerned that this region continues to be affected by a huge threat to the environment as a result of wars, armed conflicts and continued tension arising from failure to arrive at a just solution of the question of Palestine, which leads to the paralysis of development, the destruction of resources and increased environmental degradation, and affirming the urgent

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need to arrive at an international solution on the establishment of measures to cope with these dangers,

Emphasizing also the fact that measures taken or accidents occurring in one State or region must not harm the environment of other States or regions and that damage resulting from such accidents, including nuclear tests and accidents, is the responsibility of the States that cause them,

Welcoming the regional conventions for the protection and preservation of the marine environment in the regions of the Gulf, the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Mediterranean and the Atlantic and the protocols thereto, and regarding them as a comprehensive cooperative legal framework for the protection of the marine environment at the regional level,

Expressing satisfaction at the accession of some Arab States to international conventions such as the Vienna Convention, the Montreal Protocol on the Ozone Layer, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and regional conventions relating to the environment,

Having undertaken to guarantee the continuation of the harmony that characterizes the relationship of the Arab people to its environment,

1. Declare our commitment to work at the individual and the collective levels for the achievement of sustainable development and satisfaction of the needs of current generations, without prejudice to the rights of future generations, through programmes of Arab environmental cooperation, in particular by making every possible effort to:

- Encourage just participation in sustainable and environmentally sound development;
- Reduce environmental effects harmful to economic development to the greatest extent possible by integrating environmental considerations in planning operations and economic and sectoral policies;
- Draw up policies for the use of resources and development planning based on the preventive principle;
- Participate in international efforts to find solutions to urgent environmental problems at the global level;

2. Resolve to work individually and collectively to:

- Guarantee the use and safeguarding of terrestrial and marine resources and freshwater resources in an environmentally sustainable way;
- Preserve the biological diversity of the region and protect critical ecosystems;

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- Assess the environmental effect of development projects and consider them as an inseparable part of the economic feasibility study;
 - Curb pollution from waste and waste treatment and management;
3. Recognize the importance of taking socio-economic factors into consideration in activities relating to the management of natural resources by:
- Adopting population policies and encouraging modes of consumption that promote sustainable development;
 - Conducting thorough scientific research, education, training and data dissemination programmes to increase public awareness and understanding of the environmental and cultural heritage and encouraging society, particularly women, to adopt positive positions on the environment;
 - Facilitating introduction of appropriate technology at an acceptable cost, as well as the development of human resources, skills, training, research and information;
 - Guaranteeing the effective use of financing allocated from national budgets and international sources for the protection of the environment and the achievement of environmentally sustainable development;
 - Incorporating health considerations and nutrition needs in development planning;
 - Increasing opportunities for private sector participation in the achievement of sustainable development;
4. Affirm the right of individuals and non-governmental organizations to acquire information about environmental issues relevant to them, to have access to data and to participate in the formulation and implementation of decisions that may affect their environment;
5. Declare our commitment to joint action to take the necessary steps to develop the legal framework for the protection of the environment, to implement pertinent regional conventions and to increase promotion of regional and national capacities for the achievement of sustainable development;
6. Call upon the international community to endorse the right of the Arab people, as the guardian of its environment, to protect its natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations;
7. Request the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to take fully into consideration the concerns expressed in the Arab Declaration on Environment and Development and Future Perspectives at its fourth session to be held in New York;

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8. Request also that priority be given to environmental projects having a direct and rapid effect on development, particularly projects relating to the life and future of the Arabs and their future generations, in accordance with the following:

I. Appropriate and environmentally sound development

Attention to meeting the basic needs of society, ensuring the well-being of citizens and promoting a feeling of commitment and constructive interaction with the environment requires a guarantee of the continuity of development, which may be achieved by:

(a) Encouraging the rational and environmentally least harmful use of natural resources;

(b) Supporting family planning programmes to counter the population increase in a way that ensures the health of mother and child;

(c) Promoting indigenous capacities in the area of providing increased opportunities for work in the Arab homeland and developing the necessary expertise for its current and future needs;

(d) Adopting the principle of environmental evaluation for development projects, including the economic aspects, as a part of the feasibility studies for such projects and linking approval of development projects to the need for commitment to application of the conclusions of the environmental evaluation, for the purpose of environmental harmony;

II. Promotion of environmental management

The adoption of measures to support methods and systems of local environmental management, by:

(a) Developing management institutions responsible for the preparation and implementation of programmes for preserving the environment, reviewing and completing environmental legislation and endeavouring to unify it so as to ensure that actual needs are met within the framework of a balance between environment and development;

(b) Encouraging the establishment of local institutions to implement programmes for the protection of the environment in industrial and other urban population centres, ensuring their material and managerial independence and coordinating their relations with the local administration and central State bodies;

(c) Putting a halt to the use of environmentally harmful equipment and products and channelling more investments to environmental services in rural areas and urban slums;

III. Development of human settlements

An endeavour to develop the urban and rural environment by:

- (a) Encouraging inexpensive and highly effective environmental services programmes to meet the needs of citizens, relying on indigenous potential;
- (b) Attention to the use of local materials and appropriate technology, including traditional building methods and encouraging the extensible modular dwelling in low-income housing programmes;
- (c) Taking the necessary measures to reduce noise and vehicle exhaust emissions and encouraging the use of public transport;
- (d) Implementing measures for dealing with the concomitant environmental effects of the development of the various economic sectors;
- (e) Encouraging waste-recycling projects;
- (f) According priority to the implementation of sewerage in densely populated areas and also developing low-cost technology for sewage treatment;
- (g) Attention to environmental degradation and its negative effects on the resources and lifestyle of Arab citizens in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories as a result of the environmentally harmful arbitrary practices of the Israeli occupation authorities in these territories;

IV. Development of water and agricultural resources

An endeavour by all possible means to preserve and develop water and agricultural resources and to put an end to urban encroachment and the use of pesticides by:

- (a) Drawing up an integral Arab plan for environmental monitoring, including the monitoring of water resources and continued prognostication at the level of drainage and flood probability;
- (b) Promoting studies to complete data on water basins and knowledge of the quantity and quality of their waters and drawing up integrated environmental plans for their use;
- (c) Developing water resources to meet the increasing needs of agricultural, industrial and construction development;
- (d) Use of modern irrigation methods that can rationalize the use of fresh water, while encouraging investment in water production and the lowering of costs;
- (e) Redesigning agricultural cycles in irrigation projects where resources are insufficient to meet ongoing irrigation requirements;

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(f) Implementing programmes for the treatment of household and industrial sewage before it is drained off to water sources and, where possible, its recycling together with encouragement of low-cost technology;

V. Combating of desertification and development of the desert

Promoting national, regional and international efforts to combat desertification and develop the desert by:

(a) Increasing the green area and supporting and encouraging regional plans for green belts in North Africa, the Syrian desert, the Arabian peninsula and the Horn of Africa;

(b) Developing the desert, endeavouring to encourage programmes of environmental and developmental support for this purpose and promoting projects for the development of Arab pastureland in a way that ensures environmental balance in these sensitive areas;

VI. Energy uses

The Arab world, as a principal producer of fossil-fuel energy, expresses its understanding of the legitimacy of the increasing consumer demand for such energy, in spite of the resultant depletion of non-renewable wealth and negative environmental effects arising, primarily, from the mode of energy consumption. It calls for understanding on the part of the developed countries of the dimensions of this problem, a greater contribution to ensuring the availability of appropriate technology and financial resources to contain the negative aspects of this type of energy and an endeavour to ensure the optimal use of energy sources in order to realize the development aspirations of the developing countries so that they can respond to the environmental needs to endeavour to:

(a) Expand investment so as to diversify all environmentally sound energy sources and enhance the environmental soundness of their products;

(b) Implementation of programmes and policies of established effectiveness in enhancing the efficiency of current energy sources;

(c) Using available technologies and developing new appropriate technologies to enhance the efficiency of use in energy production, distribution and utilization sites;

(d) Accelerate the completion of projects currently in implementation for the linking of electricity grids and completion of studies for other Arab projects on electrical linkage, together with a study of the environmental and health effects and costs;

VII. Management of the industrial environment and hazardous substances

Continuation of industrial development as a basis for ensuring the economic and social progress of the Arab States, while endeavouring to:

- (a) Expand the introduction of clean and sound technologies;
- (b) Attention to projects for recycling secondary products and waste, giving a fresh impetus to the possibilities of the exchange of secondary products at the regional level, reindustrializing them and using them as inputs for production;
- (c) Promoting the efforts of legislative and executive environmental organs in order to develop systems for the management of the industrial environment and studies to evaluate the environmental effects of projects so as to guarantee sustained development;
- (d) Promoting environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals, raising the level of control and training, formulating plans in response to catastrophes that may arise from their spillage or leakage during use, transportation or storage and endeavouring to establish a register of such wastes and substances and to set up national databases linked to the global network in the international data bank;
- (e) Affirming the necessity of establishing constructive international cooperation within the framework of the Basel Convention and developing it to take into account the viewpoints and requirements of the developing countries in order to avert the hazards involved in the transportation and disposal of such wastes;

VIII. Protection of the marine environment

- (a) Preparation of environmentally appropriate programmes and means for the development of coastal areas and marine activities;
- (b) Supporting efforts to protect and safeguard the environment in programmes for the development of environmentally hyper-sensitive marine and coastal areas;
- (c) Appealing to the States of the world to sign the international conventions and participate in the implementation of plans to eliminate sources of marine and coastal pollution;
- (d) Urging the world to prepare plans to avert disasters that threaten marine life and tackle them as soon as they occur;

IX. Education and protection of heritage and rare natural resources

- (a) Introducing the environmental dimension into educational syllabuses and curricula at all levels and stages;
- (b) Encouraging projects to list and register rare natural resources and establish protected natural zones;
- (c) Participating in international and regional efforts to protect creatures having rare natural features;
- (d) Support of plans and projects prepared for the preservation of the heritage and its protection from harmful environmental effects;

X. Promotion of popular participation in environmental protection programmes

It is important that due attention be paid to popular participation by:

- (a) Associating individuals, local organizations and non-governmental organizations in following up the implementation of projects for protection of the environment and integrated development and providing the necessary support;
- (b) Affirming the role of the Arab woman in environmental protection so as to ensure sound environmental education for future generations;

XI. Support for Arab and international cooperation

- (a) At the Arab level
 - (i) Supporting Arab environmental institutions, organs and organizations, including the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, its committees, the competent organs of Arab organizations and regional cooperation councils;
 - (ii) Supporting regional plans for the protection of the marine environment, including the Kuwait plan of action, the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden plan, the Mediterranean plan, the emergency plans for oil spills and similar plans;
 - (iii) Coordinating cooperation with the bodies concerned in the financing of environmental projects;
 - (iv) Listing Arab environmental data networks and preparing an Arab programme to link these networks with each other and with global networks;

(b) At the international level

- (i) Commending the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for promoting international environmental efforts since the Stockholm Conference and affirming its basic role in the follow-up and implementation of the resolutions of the 1992 Brazil Conference ("Earth Summit"), as well as following up international conventions concluded on the issues before this Conference and strengthening UNEP's financial resources so as to enable it to do so;
- (ii) Promoting cooperation with the United Nations bodies concerned with environmental issues, particularly the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe, a model for the establishment of similar centres in other parts of the world;
- (iii) Effective participation in international environmental activities and accession to international conventions relating to the use of resources and the prevention of transboundary pollution, preservation of the specificity of the environment and cooperation with international programmes for environmental monitoring;

XII. The ensuring of financing for international, regional and national projects

The Arab Ministerial Conference, recalling the many international initiatives regarding the financing of international, regional and national projects for the preservation of the balance between the environment and development, including funds for financing and projects for the preservation of the environment, as well as the decision of the major industrialized countries to convert a portion of their debts into local currency and allocate the sum to the financing of projects to preserve the environment,

Welcoming these initial steps, which affirm the basic nature of the responsibility for the current global environmental crisis, affirms the necessity to:

- (i) Increase the volume of available financing capacity of these funds with lasting and renewable resources;
- (ii) Use these resources to provide assistance to developing countries in the form of non-reimbursable grants for the preparation of plans for the preservation of the environment and environmental evaluation studies for development projects and for the establishment of national databases on the environment;
- (iii) Allocate the remaining amount to finance the implementation of projects in the form of concessionary loans, with priority given to projects ready for implementation;

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XIII. Legal responsibility for environmental damage and destruction

Elaboration of appropriate legal formulas to deal with environmental damage or destruction caused by States and affecting another State.



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REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Administrative, structural and other aspects of the improvement of the efficiency of the Organization

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. After considering the analytical report of the Secretary-General (A/45/226) on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/254, in which it emphasized that "the strengthening of the effectiveness of the Organization is a continuing process ..." and encouraged "the Secretary-General and Member States to pursue the objectives of resolution 41/213, particularly those that have yet to be met". Furthermore, the General Assembly decided to "continue considering annually the administrative, structural and other aspects of the improvement of the efficiency of the Organization, and invites the Secretary-General to report accordingly".

2. In response to the above-mentioned requests by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General submits the present report, which reflects selected information on certain ongoing organizational (mainly in the economic and humanitarian fields), administrative and personnel improvements in the Secretariat. Accordingly, information concerning other initiatives under consideration, e.g., peace-keeping, coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance, financing of development, technical cooperation and environmental activities have not been incorporated in the body of the present report.

3. Furthermore, since reform and improvements in the administrative functioning of the Organization are, by definition, ongoing and multifaceted processes, the present report does not seek to constitute a comprehensive statement of all the measures being carried out within the Secretariat, and it should be read in conjunction with other reports on specific issues, currently before the General Assembly and its main committees. Such reports include: review of the capacity, experience and coordination arrangements in the United Nations system for humanitarian assistance (A/46/568), human rights questions (A/46/603), Narcotic Drugs (A/46/480), report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/PC/80), facilities management (A/45/796 and Add.1), status of technological innovations in the United Nations (A/C.5/46/1) and Status of telecommunications activities in the United Nations (A/C.5/46/5).

4. For the purpose of this report, efficiency is defined as "the extent to which an activity's outputs are produced at a minimum level of inputs" ^{1/} with key aspects of cost efficiency, rationalization of work and procedures and optimal steering and governance. Effectiveness is defined in terms of "external" performance and in relation to optimal fulfilment of tasks comprising ability to set priorities and to meet tasks optimally with adaptability to changing environment, challenges and responsiveness to political guidance (A/45/1001). In that context, efficiency can contribute to effectiveness.

5. The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), during its debate on the implementation of resolution 45/254, inter alia, recommended that "the search for more efficient and effective organization should be intensified in

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order to enable the United Nations to achieve its objectives and respond to challenges". 2/

6. To date, the greatest challenge facing the Secretariat is the need to respond effectively to ever-increasing demands and new mandates while at the same time operate in a constrained budgetary environment. A clear indication of the increased work-load of the Organization is its involvement in peace-keeping and related operations. Since 1988, nine such operations were launched. While the expansion of the tasks entrusted to the Organization is a positive sign and represents a high level of confidence in the capacity of the United Nations to meet the needs of the international community, there is a serious imbalance between what is expected from the Organization and the resources available to translate such responsibilities into reality. A separate report on the financial situation of the Organization is before the present session of the General Assembly (A/46/600).

II. ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN SECTORS

7. The subject of restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields has preoccupied the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for many years. Since 1986 in particular following the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (Group of 18), both principal organs have dealt with the subject on a continuous basis without significant results. At its resumed session, on 13 May 1991, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/264 on the subject. In that resolution, the General Assembly adopted a number of specific measures to enhance the role of the Economic and Social Council as a central forum for major economic, social, policies and coordination related issues. The Assembly also agreed on the agenda and the timetable for the continuation of the process of restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. These include a review of the subsidiary bodies of Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly at the forty-sixth session and a review of the complementarity between the work of the Assembly and the Council as well as the composition of the Economic and Social Council to be presented to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. Furthermore, the Secretary-General was requested to review the secretariat structures on the basis of agreements to be reached in the restructuring and revitalization process and to report with such recommendations as may be appropriate to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session. In preparing this report, the Secretary-General will take fully into account the outcome of a number of ongoing intergovernmental deliberations, including the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the strengthening of the regional commissions as well as the upcoming deliberations of the General Assembly on United Nations emergency response.

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8. Further measures to ensure orderly restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields were put forward in General Assembly resolution 45/177 addressing the working methods, presentation of documentation, more analytical reports and a reduction of the overall volume of documentation (A/45/714, para. 7).

9. In support of the reform process, at the level of individual intergovernmental bodies and the Secretariat offices, certain measures have been introduced, a summary of which is presented below.

10. At its spring session in April 1991, the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) adopted resolution 718 (XXVI) on the "Revitalization of the Mandate and Operational Framework of the Economic Commission for Africa", calling upon the Secretary-General to launch a comprehensive process of reviewing and updating the legislative framework of the regional commissions, and to improve their existing institutional arrangements for funding. It further called upon the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to consider the convening of an ad hoc group meeting of high-level experts during the second half of 1991 to discuss these revisions and provide input to the current process of restructuring and decentralization.

11. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), at its forty-sixth session, decided to convene a meeting of eminent persons to review its organizational structure. Taking into account the momentous changes occurring in the world and the new challenges confronting the region, the Group presented to the Commission a series of recommendations relating to the reorientation of ESCAP's future programmes and activities. The reorganization of the work of the ESCAP secretariat along thematic lines as decided by the Commission, required some degree of reorientation in terms of inputs to foster closer cooperation and coordination between divisions.

12. The Commission, at its forty-seventh session, generally endorsed the recommendation of the Group of Eminent Persons that the work of the Commission should be organized on the basis of a thematic approach, as proposed, and adopted a resolution on the "Restructuring the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission". Agreement was reached, in principle, on the setting up of three thematic committees, namely, on regional economic cooperation, the environment and sustainable development, and on poverty alleviation and economic growth. That resolution requested the Executive Secretary to convene before the end of 1991 a meeting of senior officials to consider and finalize the detailed recommendations to encompass the terms of reference, operational modalities, frequency of meetings and other relevant aspects of the revised subsidiary structure of the Commission on the basis of the report of the Group of Eminent Persons.

13. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), convened a special session to review the structure, programme of meetings, documentation, publications programme as well as the working methods of the Commission. The meeting adopted a supplementary report containing a number of proposals (E/ECE/1150/Rev.1) such as: rationalization of the Commission's programme of

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work with a reduction of programme elements by 18 per cent; merger of two of the 16 principal subsidiary bodies and a redefinition of subsidiary bodies which resulted in the elimination of 60 such bodies, a reduction of 15 per cent of the ECE calendar of meetings and of 20 per cent of its documentation. In order to maintain the restructuring exercise as an ongoing process, the Commission decided to set up a special working group to define, inter alia, the priority areas and to develop practical measures in order to improve the usefulness of the work undertaken by the Commission. As a result, the work of the Commission on environment, transport, trade facilitation, statistics and economic analysis were identified as main priorities.

14. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in paragraph 3 of its resolution 489 (PLEN. 14) recommended that the current institutional structure of ECLAC and its system should be maintained, but decided to abolish the sessional committees on water and on human settlements-topics which would henceforth be dealt with in the same way as other aspects of the Commission's work programme at each session.

15. At the Secretariat level, the need for constant structural readjustment to respond more effectively to the requirement of a climate created by new attitudes and expectations, has been recognized. Such readjustments have been initiated in a number of Secretariat entities, some of which are reviewed subsequently to highlight the ongoing quest for more effectiveness.

16. One of the most urgent management challenges for the United Nations is the growing number of peacemaking and peace-keeping operations. The longer duration and more complex pattern of peace-keeping and related missions, as well as the increase in numbers, have created a need for sustained planning and monitoring support. In this connection, the Secretary-General has established a senior-level monitoring and planning group on peace-keeping activities.

17. Over the years, the United Nations has increasingly been called upon to provide humanitarian assistance to a wide range of complex emergency situations. Many such emergencies have their root causes in poverty and environmental degradation, others are the result of civil or international conflicts and some represent a combination of all factors. The succession of recent emergencies has again highlighted the important role that the United Nations must play to provide leadership to the international community for swift and effective response. This includes the effective mobilization of the political, humanitarian and development capacities of the United Nations system in foreseeing emergencies through early warning, adopting preventive measures where possible, responding to them when they occur as well as finding effective ways to address their root causes. The United Nations system must be in a position to make advance arrangements, on the basis of both its existing and stand-by capacities, to assist emergency-prone and affected countries. To that effect, a number of operational organizations have already strengthened their emergency capacity. Others are in the process of doing so with the active involvement of their respective bodies. One of the important lessons learned from the experience of the Office for Emergency Operations in

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Africa was the great value of a focal-point with necessary authority and capacity to advise the Secretary-General on a continuing basis on various aspects relating to humanitarian assistance in response to emergencies.

18. In order to exercise such leadership, the Secretary-General has put forward a comprehensive set of recommendations to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to provide an effective response to emergencies (A/46/568). These recommendations include the appointment of a high-level official to assist him personally in this regard.

19. With respect to emergency operations in Africa, the recent developments in the Horn of Africa alone have been catastrophic for tens of millions of people and required an immediate response. Based on an assessment of immediate requirements by the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations assumed the lead role in mobilizing the international community in coordinating relief efforts. The Unit for Special Emergency Programmes in the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship was strengthened and in addition to the coordination function, it was assigned to collect and disseminate up-to-date information on needs and responses for the Horn of Africa along the lines of the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa approved in 1985. Arrangements have also been made for regular liaison with donor Governments and affected Governments, the non-governmental organizations and also for appropriate public information activities. These measures are introduced without prejudice to the wider arrangements needed for handling of emergency situations world wide. A separate report on this issue will be submitted to the General Assembly.

20. The General Assembly recognizing, *inter alia*, that the global character of environmental problems, including climate change, depletion of the ozone layer, transboundary air and water pollution, the contamination of the oceans and seas and degradation of land resources, including drought and desertification, necessitates action at the global, regional and national levels; and the commitment and participation of all countries, decided by its resolution 44/228 of 22 March 1990, to convene the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992. To date, the Preparatory Committee for the Conference has held few organizational meetings and recommendations regarding the question of institutional arrangements in consideration of the substantive issues, related financial and other cross-sectoral measures, have been considered (A/CONF.151/PC/36 and 80). The Secretary-General is expected to consider the question of institutional arrangements of the Conference and provide certain proposals to the next meeting of the Preparatory Committee.

21. As a result of recent global changes and a series of new mandates, principally those of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, human rights activities of the United Nations have experienced an unprecedented expansion. Against this background, the Secretary-General has initiated a review of the structure, functions and staffing of the Centre for Human Rights to evaluate the effectiveness of the

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existing organizational structure in relation to its evolving mandate and to assess the adequacy of its staffing and other resources vis-à-vis its functions.

22. That review concluded, inter alia, that while there was a need for clear delineation of responsibilities among various organizational units dealing with the issue of human rights, the Centre was experiencing an acute shortage of expert manpower in coping with its growing mandates. Taking into account the priorities assigned to certain activities of the Centre by the legislative organs, the review identified a more rational and simplified organizational structure which could meet more efficiently the objectives of the core programme activities of the Centre. The proposed new structure envisages systematic coordination and better linkages among various organizational elements and provides for more efficient monitoring of the work and use of staff time.

23. With respect to United Nations activities on drug control, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/179 of 21 December 1990, the Secretary-General established the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which is responsible for pertinent concerted international action. The Programme integrates the structures and the functions of existing organizational elements previously handling the issues in a parallel manner in an attempt to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations mechanism.

24. As provided in General Assembly resolution 45/179, the Programme is to be structured along the following lines:

(a) Treaty implementation, which will integrate, with due consideration to treaty arrangements, the functions of the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the treaty implementation functions of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, taking into account the independent role of the Board;

(b) Policy implementation and research, with responsibility for implementing policy decisions of the relevant legislative bodies and conducting analytical work;

(c) Operational activities, with responsibility for coordinating and carrying out the technical cooperation projects currently executed mainly by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the secretariat of the International Narcotic Control Board.

25. Separate reports on the above arrangements are presented to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session (A/46/460 and A/C.5/46/23).

26. In response to the General Assembly resolutions calling for the strengthening of the substantive and administrative functions and structures of the United Nations office in Vienna (UNOV), a review of the present administrative and common and conference services related arrangement is initiated. The finding and recommendations pertaining to this review will be presented to the present session of the General Assembly.

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27. Furthermore, to maximize the effective use of scarce resources and with a view to respond more effectively to the concept of a social development nucleus in the Secretariat, certain organizational changes were introduced in the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA).

Accordingly, some functions were reassigned within the Social Development Division and a Planning and Inter-Sectoral Projects Unit established to study emerging issues and macro-social policy aspects of social development and to provide practical assistance to countries in social policy design, planning and coordination. The effectiveness of the new arrangements is under review and further changes may be made as a result of consideration for upgrading of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme requested by the Intergovernmental Group on the Creation of an Effective International Crime and Justice Programme.

28. In the area of international trade and development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in recent years has undertaken a number of organizational reforms affecting both the structure and methods of work of the secretariat and the functioning of the intergovernmental bodies.

29. The most recent reorganization has resulted in the establishment of two Programme "clusters" dealing, respectively with International Trade and Resources for Development, new structures for the remaining substantive Divisions in the secretariat dealing with Commodities, Shipping and Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, and a consolidation of data processing and statistical services. The process of reorganization is being subjected to continuing internal monitoring and assessment, particularly as regards its impact on policy coordination and programme management, the effective utilization of resources, and the secretariat's flexibility to respond to evolving mandates. In conjunction with the organizational rearrangements certain measures regarding substantive preparation of intergovernmental meetings were also introduced. Other procedural improvements have included a greater use of informal mechanisms for intergovernmental consultations, such as holding a monthly meeting between the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and members of the Trade and Development Board.

30. Further adjustments in the secretariat structures are currently being introduced to reflect new developments and orientations in UNCTAD's activities, particularly the expanded responsibilities entrusted to UNCTAD by the Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, developments in Central and Eastern Europe, and new mandates concerned with sustainable development. Further orientations for UNCTAD's activities may be expected as a result of the eighth session of UNCTAD, to be held in Cartagena, Colombia, in February 1992.

31. The work programme of the Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has twice been substantially revised and updated in the course of the last 10 years to reflect the current state of knowledge and priorities in the sector. Currently, the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 provides the backdrop for all activities of the Centre in research and development, technical cooperation and information dissemination. Similar attention has

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been directed to the Centre's operational activities, leading to a shift away from individual projects towards programme orientation. An internal reorganization of the Centre's Technical Cooperation Division is being implemented in order to achieve a more rational distribution of responsibilities and hence more intensive coverage of countries.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE, PROCEDURAL AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

A. Human resources management

32. Emerging changes in the international and political environment have resulted in an increasing demand upon the Organization and its staff, which is called upon to deal effectively with an expanded range of problems, often requiring specialized expertise. To that end, one of the crucial tasks facing the Secretary-General in the area of human resource development is the need to establish the machinery and sufficient resource levels capable of coping with large-scale operations of growing scope and complexity.

33. The renewed confidence placed in the Organization and the expansion of the peace-keeping related operations have, however, coincided with the post reduction exercise which time and again, resulted in certain bottlenecks for the proper human resources planning and operation of the Secretariat.

34. Despite these constraints, a number of measures to improve the capacity of the staff to meet emerging and future requirements have been instituted. The Secretary-General has continued his efforts to place the remaining staff whose posts have been abolished in accordance with paragraph 1 (b) of resolution 41/213.

35. In accordance with resolution 45/239, the Secretary-General has initiated measures for the establishment of a comprehensive career development system for all categories of staff. This system will, inter alia, focus on such factors as performance evaluation, mobility, training and promotion. In order to ensure its successful initiation, the proposed system will be discussed with the staff prior to its finalization and submission to the General Assembly. At the moment the scarcity of posts has reduced the possibility of promotion for many deserving staff. Moreover, this situation is affecting the Secretary-General's efforts in meeting the mandates of the General Assembly regarding the percentage of women in posts at the D-1 level and above.

36. In order to safeguard the consistent implementation of personnel policies and recruitment guidelines and provision of a more structured advice in consideration of candidates, the Secretary-General has decided to establish a Senior Review Group to advise him on the filling of posts at the D-2 level. In addition, efforts are under way to review and strengthen other personnel management subsystems such as mobility policy and mission assignments. A new policy for mission assignments is therefore being developed.

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37. In light of the expansion of peace-keeping operations, the training programmes has given priority to the organization of briefing sessions, providing special job training, mission-specific language training and communication skills. These demands drew on the limited resources earmarked for other training activities, e.g., the enhancement of management-related skills, despite the recognition that better-qualified managers will contribute to a more effective Organization. An evaluation of the impact of small management group training - the present practice - suggested that it was not sufficient to strengthen managerial capabilities adequately. To achieve a conducive organizational environment, large-scale systematic management training should be offered to all staff corresponding to their seniority and expertise. Consequently, there is an urgent need to develop a more effective and comprehensive training policy which is responsive to programmatic goals and capable of advancing staff development and bolstering morale.

38. Another challenge facing the Organization is to keep abreast of technological innovations. While specific training is offered at Headquarters, this proved to be more complicated at other duty stations. This was mainly due to the fact that the prevailing levels of automation and expertise in overseas offices differ widely. As a result, the design of a unified training programme for all levels of staff and the preparation of corresponding manuals have been complicated and impeded the timely implementation of improved systems within the available tight budget.

39. Greater utilization of the consultative staff management machinery resulted in improved staff management relations. The matters currently under consultation with programme managers and staff representatives include a new performance evaluation system, staff redeployment and career development.

B. Conference services

40. General Assembly resolution 43/222 B mandated the Committee on Conferences to examine the proposals of the Secretary-General on the draft calendar and to recommend to the General Assembly a draft calendar of conferences and meetings designed to meet the needs of the United Nations while ensuring the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources. Under the guidance of the Committee on Conferences, it has been possible to plan a more even calendar which has yielded considerable gains in terms of producing a programme of meetings while taking into account the related levels of documentation requirements and the foreseen ability of the Secretariat to deliver the required level of services. In addition, managerial measures such as the over-programming of meetings, or the under-recruitment of meetings servicing staff, have maximized the use of internal capacity. However, recent trends, most notably the greatly increased activity of the Security Council, the uncertain timing of its requirements and the volume of documentation, have greatly inhibited the Secretariat's ability to employ such measures and reap their full benefit.

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41. In an expanded effort to ensure the more timely issuance of documentation for consideration by intergovernmental organs, close cooperation has been established between Department of Conference Services and the Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services as well as other author units in adhering more closely to deadlines for the submission of manuscripts for processing.

42. Inter-agency consultations on the standardization of methods and procedures in the meetings servicing, documentation and publications processes, including editing, translation and interpretation policies of the organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the application of technological innovations to conference servicing areas, are currently carried out by an Inter-Agency Meeting for Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications (IAMLADP). Subjects under consideration encompass the establishment of cost-efficiency standards for conference-servicing, common and joint conference service arrangements, financial arrangements for common, joint and coordinated conference services, establishment and application of progressive workload standards (ACC/1991/PER/R.25).

43. In compliance with recommendation 34 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts (Group of 18) concerning the publications programme of the United Nations, collaborative efforts on the part of the Publications Board, author departments and the sales operation to rationalize the Organization's publishing activities have been directed towards applying more exacting criteria when selecting and creating titles for issuance as sales publications, so that the limited resources available can be most effectively invested. To enhance the marketability of publications, a number of measures have been taken, such as reworking the manuscripts with manifest sales potential, and acquiring the rights to material designed for specific age groups and readerships combined with energetic promotional campaigns and cooperative advertising with book agents.

C. Common procurement system

44. General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 21 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sector of the United Nations recommended, inter alia, that "measures should be taken to achieve maximum uniformity of administrative, financial, budgetary, personal and planning procedures, including the establishment of a common procurement system".

45. To achieve better coordination of procurement activities and take advantage of economies of scale, the Secretary-General decided to establish a coordinating body in Copenhagen. This will ensure better coordination in procurement for the system, including benefits resulting from standardization. Significant savings are expected to be realized, particularly in the procurement of items most frequently used by organizations such as vehicles, tires, paper, office supplies, furnishings, personal computers and related electronic data-processing equipment. Practical aspects of these arrangements are now under development, including a standard coding system for these items. Particular benefits would accrue to smaller

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organizations and offices included in the effort because they would have at their disposal the resources of a procurement office with the capacity to undertake extensive global market surveys. It is expected that coordinated procurement would begin to function in 1991 and become fully operational by the end of 1992.

D. Technological innovations

46. The introduction and use of new information technologies - in telecommunications and office automation - requires the development of common policies, standards and procedures to ensure the efficient acquisition and use of such equipment, related facilities and software. In this connection, the activities of the United Nations Technological Innovations Board (TIB), an interdepartmental body under the chairmanship of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, have been expanded to include "software and hardware related to microcomputers and mini-computers, all aspects of mainframe computer applications and operations, and local and global telecommunications". 3/ The Working Group of TIB is also conducting an in-depth survey of existing United Nations databases and measures to improve their accessibility. Well coordinated development of the acquisition of new technology ensures compatibility in equipment and software and provides added efficiencies in training and support.

47. The new integrated management information system (IMIS) is the first significant step in establishing a global information strategy for the Organization. Its application may result in a more effective operation of the programme budget, improve accounting, processing personnel administration transactions, travel administration, procurement and inventory management practices and reduced payroll related functions. These improvements have been described in detail in the second report of the Secretary-General on the IMIS project (A/C.5/45/20).

48. In conference servicing, major efforts towards technological modernization, e.g., use of optical disc and improvement of services, have been launched to provide for greater speed and accuracy of data and their transmission.

49. At present, however, the benefits of using optical disc or digital image systems for the storage, retrieval and transmission of parliamentary documents and electronic dissemination of documents is under further review (A/46/88).

50. Internal printing facilities have been significantly upgraded at Headquarters and at the Economic Commission for Africa.

51. A computer-based library management system has been installed at the United Nations Library at Geneva and is planned to be introduced in New York during the biennium 1992-1993.

52. Rapid advances in data communications technology have enabled the Organization to begin planning for a data communications infrastructure

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supporting a diversity of applications which will be developed over the next few years. With the recent introduction of Local Area Networks (LANs) at the major duty stations, all data transfer functions of the Wide Area Networks will be placed at the desktop level for the entire Organization (A/C.5/46/1).

53. The Organization is also making widespread use of voice-mail messaging and fax transmission equipment as well as computerized databases and is looking into the wider use of electronic mail communications (A/C.5/46/5).

54. Through a globally integrated approach to facilities management (A/45/796/Add.1) efforts are being made to obtain the maximum benefit for the United Nations capital investment. Modern communications technology is being installed and security services are being improved on a global basis.

E. Standards of workload analysis

55. Over the past 15 years, various efforts have been made to develop management and workload analysis techniques for use in the allocation of personnel resources in the Secretariat. Although certain standards have been developed for work in support of conferences, such as translation, interpretation, reproduction and typing, their wider application to all categories of staff has proven to be difficult. Most recently, however, in order to comply with requests of the legislative bodies, the Management Advisory Service (MAS) conducted an analysis of contemporary workload measurement techniques used by various organizations and reviewed their potential benefits and problems in applying them to the Professional category at the United Nations.

56. Two major groups of approaches, output-oriented and value-oriented methods, were highlighted. While the first is more appropriate for assessing resources/allocation budgeting needs, the value-oriented approach has been developed mostly to promote constant improvements in productivity. The report concluded that although, in principle, workload analysis technique could be used for measuring the productivity of the United Nations Professional staff, they entail several problems and constraints that could discourage their wide application in connection with the budgetary process. In addition to considerable cost in developing the proper methodology and compilation of necessary data, certain adjustments and changes in the programme budget and performance reporting of the Organization seem indispensable. The report recommended that these workload analysis techniques be tested for their appropriateness to the work of United Nations Professionals by conducting a pilot study in a few departments. It further recommended that value-oriented techniques be applied selectively to promote a strategy of improvement in productivity.

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IV. CONCLUSION

57. No dynamic organization can maintain its viability and effectiveness unless it is prepared to face the challenges of the present and future.

58. Taking into account the momentous changes occurring in the world and the resulting new challenges confronting the Organization, the United Nations is continuously striving towards a creative and forward-looking role in helping to resolve many complex and diverse global problems.

59. In order to respond effectively to the emerging challenges confronting the global community, the United Nations faces two critical problems: uncertainty of its financial resources and the constraints of the present organizational infrastructure. Nevertheless, the Organization has registered achievements in tackling a wide range of problems, *inter alia*, peace-keeping operations, supervision of elections, protection of human rights, combating environmental degradation and drug control.

60. The process of adapting the Organization to evolving and changing needs must be ongoing and permanent. Given the present financial situation of the Organization, improvements in effectiveness and efficiency are bound to be critical for enabling the Organization to cope successfully with new tasks assigned to it. Thus, this effort must consciously be supported by every programme manager and indeed every staff member.

61. As the evolution of relevant concept and measures and their implementation inevitably requires time to mature and produce tangible results, the General Assembly may wish to consider dealing with this issue in future on a biennial rather than annual basis. The adoption of such a cycle would furthermore allow the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination to make a more specific input than currently possible.

62. It is also proposed that in between the reporting cycle an in-depth thematic approach, concentrating on a specific issue of interest to the General Assembly, be adopted, in order to assist the legislative bodies in their deliberations. The proposed reports aiming at improving the effectiveness of the Organization could be in-depth, policy-oriented and multi-disciplinary.

Notes

1/ Evaluation Manual of the United Nations, United Nations, New York (October 1986), p. 87.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/46/16), para. 446.

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6), para. 33A.22.



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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 22 November 1988, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", which read in part as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling that the year 1990 will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

"Bearing in mind the related recommendation contained in the Final Document adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries, 1/ held at Nicosia from 7 to 10 September 1988,

...

"1. Declares the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session a report that would enable the Assembly to consider and adopt an action plan aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism."

II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

2. In accordance with the requests of the General Assembly in its resolution 43/47 and two subsequent decisions (44/429 and 45/410) the Secretary-General submitted three interim reports (A/44/800 of 27 November 1989, A/45/624 of 11 October 1990 and A/46/593 of 24 October 1991) relating to the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

3. These reports reproduced the views and suggestions of States Members and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, including the report of the Working Group of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on Decolonization, which was adopted by the tenth Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, at Accra, on 7 September 1991 (see A/46/593).

4. The views and suggestions referred to above are reflected in the annex to the present report and may enable the General Assembly to consider and adopt an action plan aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism.

Notes

1/ A/43/667-S/20212, annex, sect. I, para. 239.

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ANNEX

Summary of views and suggestions submitted to the Secretary-General in connection with the plan of action requested in General Assembly resolution 43/47

INTRODUCTION

1. The ultimate goal of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism should be the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples through the exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by the population of each of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

I. ACTION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

2. The international community, Member States, the United Nations system as a whole and other governmental and non-governmental organizations should unite their efforts to assist effectively the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in their progress towards self-determination and should actively participate in the implementation of the plan of action.

3. The international community should seek to enable the people of each Non-Self-Governing Territory to exercise its inalienable right to self-determination and decide its future political status with complete knowledge and awareness of the full range of political options available to it, including independence. In that context, particular emphasis should be placed on the improvement of educational systems in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the protection and enhancement of the human rights of the populations.

4. The international community should ensure that all political exercises relating to self-determination are carried out in an atmosphere free from intimidation and outside interference and allow for the open expression of the interests and aspirations of the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories irrespective of factors such as size, geographical location, size of population or availability of economic resources, with the United Nations playing an appropriate role.

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II. AREAS IN WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS, IN COOPERATION
WITH THE ADMINISTERING POWERS, SHOULD TAKE ACTION
AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY

5. The United Nations, in cooperation with the administering Powers, should ensure that the people of Non-Self-Governing Territories are kept fully aware of the political status options available to them through increased direct contacts with the elected leaders and with the peoples themselves.

6. The United Nations, in cooperation with the administering Powers, should ensure that all acts of self-determination are preceded by adequate and unbiased campaigns of political education.

7. The appropriate United Nations organs, in consultation with the administering Powers, should undertake comprehensive reviews of the situation in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in order to arrange for the holding of self-determination referendums as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 1999.

8. The Secretary-General, or his Special Representative, should visit each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories as early as possible during the Decade and report thereon to the General Assembly.

III. AREAS IN WHICH ACTION IS REQUESTED OF THE ADMINISTERING
POWERS AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY

9. Administering Powers should take the necessary measures to promote the political, economic, social, cultural and educational advancement of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories thereby facilitating their exercise of the right to self-determination and should continue to provide the United Nations with information in accordance with Article 73 g of the Charter of the United Nations.

10. Administering Powers should ensure that any exercises of the right of self-determination are not affected by changes in the demographic composition of the Territories under their administration as a result of immigration or the displacement of the peoples of the Territories.

11. Administering Powers should implement measures aimed at conserving the natural resources, preserving the environment and assisting the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in achieving the maximum possible level of economic self-reliance, environmental protection, and social and educational development.

12. Administering Powers should be requested to continue to cooperate, or resume cooperation, with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and actively involve themselves in its work.

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13. Administering Powers should facilitate the participation of Territories under their administration in the programmes and activities of the specialized agencies, international financial institutions and other organizations within the United Nations system, and United Nations bodies on decolonization, including in particular the Special Committee, as well as regional and international organizations.

14. Administering Powers should facilitate the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to each of the Territories at regular intervals.

IV. MEASURES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

15. Member States, in particular administering Powers, should take all necessary measures to protect the Non-Self-Governing Territories against environmental degradation and ecological damage; ensure timely assistance in the monitoring of both natural and man-made environmental threats; and provide the necessary relief assistance in cases of environmental emergencies.

16. Member States should adopt measures at the national level, including legislation, that would discourage all actions and activities, commercial or otherwise, which could be prejudicial to the exercise of the right to self-determination by the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

17. Member States, in particular administering Powers, should refrain from the use of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories for military bases and installations.

V. ROLE OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

18. Concrete mechanisms of international assistance should be worked out, especially in terms of economic growth and development, as well as protection of the environment in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In this area, the specialized agencies of the United Nations and international financial institutions should play a major role and therefore should be called upon to prepare adequate programmes.

19. The relevant United Nations bodies, particularly the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, should be entrusted with intensifying the dissemination of information on the situation in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as on the Decade itself through special publications on decolonization, public film projections, photo exhibits and seminars. Depending on the availability of resources, the Department of Public Information should be encouraged to establish the appropriate correspondent network in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

20. Non-governmental organizations and individuals with expertise in the field of decolonization should be requested to intensify their activities in cooperation with the relevant organs of the United Nations.

VI. ACTION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON
THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

21. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;

(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organisations and experts.

22. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

23. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies.

VII. COORDINATION, REVIEW, APPRAISAL AND REPORTING

24. The Special Committee and the Secretary-General should coordinate the programmes of activities relating to the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

25. The Special Committee should submit annually to the General Assembly an analytical report containing:

/...

(a) A review and appraisal of the activities undertaken in connection with the Decade;

(b) Suggestions and recommendations.

26. The Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly every three years during the Decade a report on action taken, as well as on suggestions and trends that emerge from the deliberations of United Nations organs and the specialized agencies on implementation of the plan of action.

27. The Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a final report on the achievements of the Decade.



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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 22 November 1988, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", which read in part as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling that the year 1990 will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

"Bearing in mind the related recommendation contained in the Final Document adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries, 1/ held at Nicosia from 7 to 10 September 1988,

...

"1. Declares the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session a report that would enable the Assembly to consider and adopt an action plan aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism."

II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

2. In accordance with the requests of the General Assembly in its resolution 43/47 and two subsequent decisions (44/429 and 45/410) the Secretary-General submitted three interim reports (A/44/800 of 27 November 1989, A/45/624 of 11 October 1990 and A/46/593 of 24 October 1991) relating to the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

3. These reports reproduced the views and suggestions of States Members and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, including the report of the Working Group of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on Decolonization, which was adopted by the tenth Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, at Accra, on 7 September 1991 (see A/46/593).

4. The views and suggestions referred to above are reflected in the annex to the present report and may enable the General Assembly to consider and adopt an action plan aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism.

Notes

1/ A/43/667-S/20212, annex, sect. I, para. 239.

/...

ANNEX

Summary of views and suggestions submitted to the Secretary-General in connection with the plan of action requested in General Assembly resolution 43/47

INTRODUCTION

1. The ultimate goal of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism should be the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples through the exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by the population of each of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and with the principles contained in the Declaration.

I. ACTION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

2. The international community, Member States, the United Nations system as a whole and other governmental and non-governmental organizations should unite their efforts to assist effectively the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in their progress towards self-determination and should actively participate in the implementation of the plan of action.

3. The international community and the United Nations system as a whole should continue to support the holding of consultations, as well as negotiations which are under way, among Member States concerned with a view to resolving certain colonial situations clearly identified in resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.

4. The international community should seek to enable the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and decide their future political status with complete knowledge and awareness of the full range of political options available to them, including independence. In that context, particular emphasis should be placed on the improvement of educational systems in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the protection and enhancement of the human rights of the populations.

5. The international community should ensure that all political exercises relating to self-determination are carried out in an atmosphere free from intimidation and outside interference and allow for the open expression of the interests and aspirations of the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories irrespective of factors such as size, geographical location, size of population or availability of economic resources, with the United Nations playing an appropriate role.

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II. AREAS IN WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS, IN COOPERATION
WITH THE ADMINISTERING POWERS, SHOULD TAKE ACTION
AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY

6. The United Nations, in cooperation with the administering Powers, should ensure that the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories are kept fully aware of the political status options available to them through increased direct contacts with the elected leaders and with the peoples themselves.
7. The United Nations, in cooperation with the administering Powers, should ensure that all acts of self-determination are preceded by adequate and unbiased campaigns of political education.
8. The appropriate United Nations organs, in consultation with the administering Powers, should undertake comprehensive reviews of the situation in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to arrange for the holding of self-determination referendums as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 1999, in accordance with principles contained in the Declaration and all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.
9. The Secretary-General, or his Special Representative, should visit each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories as early as possible during the Decade and report thereon to the General Assembly.

III. AREAS IN WHICH ACTION IS REQUESTED OF THE ADMINISTERING
POWERS AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY

10. Administering Powers should take the necessary measures to promote the political, economic, social, cultural and educational advancement of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories thereby facilitating their exercise of the right to self-determination and should continue to provide the United Nations with information in accordance with Article 73 g of the Charter of the United Nations.
11. Administering Powers should ensure that any exercises of the right of self-determination are not affected by changes in the demographic composition of the Territories under their administration as a result of immigration or the displacement of the peoples of the Territories.
12. Administering Powers should implement measures aimed at conserving the natural resources, preserving the environment and assisting the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in achieving the maximum possible level of economic self-reliance, environmental protection, and social and educational development.
13. Administering Powers should be requested to continue to cooperate, or resume cooperation, with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and actively involve themselves in its work.

/...

14. Administering Powers should facilitate, in accordance with all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and taking into account Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, the participation of Territories under their administration in the programmes and activities of the specialized agencies, international financial institutions and other organizations within the United Nations system, and United Nations bodies on decolonization, including in particular the Special Committee, as well as regional and international organizations.

15. Administering Powers should facilitate the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to each of the Territories at regular intervals.

IV. MEASURES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

16. Member States, in particular administering Powers, should take all necessary measures to protect the Non-Self-Governing Territories against environmental degradation and ecological damage; ensure timely assistance in the monitoring of both natural and man-made environmental threats; and provide the necessary relief assistance in cases of environmental emergencies.

17. Member States should be invited to consider adopting at the national level such measures, including legislation, that would (a) discourage all actions and activities, commercial or otherwise, which could be prejudicial to the exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories; and (b) promote full respect for the human rights of peoples living under foreign domination and facilitate their recourse to judicial proceedings in order to gain economic and social restitution.

18. Member States, in particular administering Powers, should refrain from the use of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories for military bases and installations.

V. ROLE OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

19. Concrete mechanisms of international assistance should be worked out, especially in terms of economic growth and development, as well as protection of the environment in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In this area, the specialized agencies of the United Nations and international financial institutions should play a major role and therefore should be called upon to prepare adequate programmes.

20. The relevant United Nations bodies, particularly the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, should be entrusted with intensifying the dissemination of information on the situation in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as on the Decade itself through

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special publications on decolonization, public film projections, photo exhibits and seminars. Depending on the availability of resources, the Department of Public Information should be encouraged to establish the appropriate correspondent network in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

21. Non-governmental organizations and individuals with expertise in the field of decolonization should be requested to intensify their activities in cooperation with the relevant organs of the United Nations.

VI. ACTION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

22. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;

(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

23. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

24. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies.

VII. COORDINATION, REVIEW, APPRAISAL AND REPORTING

25. The Special Committee and the Secretary-General should coordinate the programmes of activities relating to the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

26. The Special Committee should submit annually to the General Assembly an analytical report containing:

(a) A review and appraisal of the activities undertaken in connection with the Decade;

(b) Suggestions and recommendations.

27. The Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly every three years during the Decade a report on action taken, as well as on suggestions and trends that emerge from the deliberations of United Nations organs and the specialized agencies on implementation of the plan of action.

28. The Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a final report on the achievements of the Decade.



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PROTECTION AND SECURITY OF SMALL STATES

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ehab FAWZY (Egypt)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Protection and security of small States" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 44/51 of 8 December 1989.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.
3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 15 and 17 October (see A/SPC/46/SR.5 and 6).
4. The Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/339).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/SPC/46/L.3

5. At the 5th meeting, on 15 October 1991, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Maldives introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/46/L.3) sponsored by Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belize, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cyprus, Djibouti, Fiji, the Gambia, Grenada, Guyana, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Namibia, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates

and Vanuatu, subsequently joined by Afghanistan, Bahrain, Barbados, Bhutan, Dominica, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, the Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Viet Nam and Yemen.

6. At its 6th meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 8).

7. The representative of Sweden made a statement in connection with the draft resolution.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

8. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection and security of small States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/51 of 8 December 1989, in which it recognized that small States may be particularly vulnerable to external threats and acts of interference in their internal affairs,

Reaffirming its commitment to international peace and security,

Recalling the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, 1/

Conscious that small States may be particularly vulnerable to external threats and acts of interference in their internal affairs and may have special needs consonant with the right to sovereignty and territorial integrity,

Concerned at the danger that mercenaries and terrorists, as well as drug traffickers, can represent for small States,

Condemning all acts of aggression, including those against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of small States,

1/ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General 2/ on the implementation of resolution 44/51,

1. Expresses its deep appreciation to the Secretary-General for the report on the implementation of resolution 44/51;
2. Recognizes that small States may be particularly vulnerable to external threats and acts of interference in their internal affairs;
3. Stresses the vital importance for all States of the unconditional respect by all States of all the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the principle of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and the peaceful settlement of disputes, and their consistent application;
4. Stresses also the importance of strengthening the regional security arrangements by increasing interaction, cooperation and consultation;
5. Appeals to the relevant regional and international organizations to provide assistance when requested by small States for the strengthening of their security in accordance with the principles of the Charter;
6. Urges the Secretary-General to continue to pay special attention to monitoring the security situation of small States and to consider making use of the provisions of Article 99 of the Charter;
7. Invites the Secretary-General to continue to explore ways and means, within the United Nations and in accordance with the Charter, of preserving the security of small States;
8. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his consultations with the members of the Security Council and other interested Governments, taking into account the changing international climate and the emergence of new States, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;
9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "Protection and security of small States".



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Agenda item 70

EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ehab FAWZY (Egypt)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Effects of atomic radiation" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 45/71 of 11 December 1990.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.
3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 9 and 10 October (see A/SPC/46/SR.3 and 4). It had before it the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (A/46/218).
4. The Special Political Committee also had before it six letters pertaining, *inter alia*, to the item, addressed to the Secretary-General from the representatives of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru to the United Nations, on behalf of the members of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, transmitting statements issued by its secretariat, and dated 23 May 1991 (A/46/203), 3 June 1991 (A/46/223), 5 June 1991 (A/46/225), 24 June 1991 (A/46/276), 16 July 1991 (A/46/314), and 22 July 1991 (A/46/320). Also before the Special Political Committee were the following: a letter dated 1 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/163); a letter dated 5 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting,

on behalf of the seven South Pacific Forum countries that are also Members of the United Nations, namely, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, the final communiqué of the twenty-second South Pacific Forum held at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, on 29 and 30 July 1991 (A/46/344); and a letter dated 12 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, which, inter alia, referred to the item.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/SPC/46/L.2

5. At the 3rd meeting, on 9 October 1991, the representative of Belgium introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/46/L.2), sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Samoa, Sweden, Ukraine, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay.

6. At the 4th meeting, on 10 October, it was announced that Canada, Costa Rica, India, New Zealand, Portugal and Spain had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.2 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

8. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 45/71 of 11 December 1990, in which, inter alia, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, 1/

1/ A/46/218.

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which man is exposed,

Conscious of the continued need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on man and his environment.

Bearing in mind the decision of the Scientific Committee to submit, as soon as the relevant studies are completed, shorter reports with supporting scientific documents on the specialized topics mentioned by the Committee, 2/

1. Commends the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making in the course of the past thirty-six years, since its inception, to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of atomic radiation and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

2. Notes with satisfaction the continued and growing scientific cooperation between the Scientific Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. Requests the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important coordinating activities, to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources;

4. Endorses the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly;

5. Also requests the Scientific Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

6. Requests the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

7. Expresses its appreciation for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their cooperation in this field;

2/ A/38/142, para.5.

8. Invites Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly.



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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ehab FAWZY (Egypt)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 45/72 of 11 December 1990.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.
3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 16th to 20th meetings, from 4 to 8 November 1991 (see A/SPC/46/SR.16-20).
4. The Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; 1/
 - (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/46/389).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/46/20).

5. The Committee also had before it a letter dated 19 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, reporting on fragments of a space object, presumably of the Soviet orbital station "Salyut-7"- "Cosmos 1686", falling over Argentine territory (A/46/92).

6. At the 16th meeting, on 4 November 1991, Mr. Peter Hohenfellner, Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, introduced the report of the Committee.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/SPC/46/L.11

7. At the 19th meeting, on 7 November 1991, the representative of Austria introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space" (A/SPC/46/L.11), on behalf of the Working Group on International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of the Special Political Committee, which, in accordance with the decision of the Special Political Committee at its 2nd meeting, on 7 October 1991, was established under the chairmanship of the representative of Austria to prepare a draft resolution on this item. He expressed the hope that the resolution would be adopted without a vote.

8. At the 20th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee made an oral correction to paragraph 26 of the French text of the draft resolution, stating that the words "in depth" had been inadvertently omitted from the French text, and that the text should read as follows:

"Juge également que la question des débris spatiaux pourra ultérieurement constituer un sujet approprié de discussion approfondie ...".

9. With reference to the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.11, the Chairman informed the Committee at the 20th meeting, on 8 November, that, according to information provided by the Programme Planning and Budget Division, it was not anticipated that programme budget implications would arise if the General Assembly were to adopt the draft resolution on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

10. At the 20th meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 11).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

11. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

/...

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/72 of 11 December 1990,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of mankind in promoting the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Gravely concerned at the extension of an arms race into outer space,

Recognizing that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Aware of the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to the socio-economic advancement of mankind, in particular that of the people of developing countries,

Considering that space debris is an issue of concern to all nations,

Noting the progress achieved in the further development of peaceful space exploration and application as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, which contribute to international cooperation in this field,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General 2/ on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 3/

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its thirty-fourth session, 4/

2/ A/46/389.

3/ See Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 9-21 August 1982 (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2).

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/46/20).

1. Endorses the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; 4/
2. Invites States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space 5/ to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;
3. Notes that, at its thirtieth session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in its working groups, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 45/72; 6/
4. Endorses the recommendations of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-first session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:
 - (a) Continue, through its working group, the elaboration of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear-power sources in outer space with the aim of finalizing the draft set of principles at its next session;
 - (b) Continue, through its working group, its consideration of matters relating to the definition and delimitations of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union;
 - (c) Continue, through its working group, its consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries;
5. Endorses the recommendations of the Committee concerning the organization of work in the Legal Subcommittee;

5/ Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies [resolution 2222 (XXI), annex]; Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space [resolution 2345 (XXII), annex]; Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects [resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex]; Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space [resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex]; Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 34/68, annex).

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/46/20), sect. II.C.

6. Notes that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its twenty-eighth session, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/72; 7/

7. Endorses the recommendations of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its twenty-ninth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:

- (a) Consider the following items on a priority basis:
 - (i) United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system;
 - (ii) Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; 8/
 - (iii) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites including, inter alia, applications for developing countries;
 - (iv) Use of nuclear-power sources in outer space;
- (b) Consider the following items:
 - (i) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space;
 - (ii) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries;
 - (iii) Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine;
 - (iv) Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme;
 - (v) Matters relating to planetary exploration;
 - (vi) Matters relating to astronomy;

7/ Ibid., sect. II.E.

8/ See footnote 4.

- (vii) The theme fixed for special attention at the 1992 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Space technology and the protection of the Earth's environment: development of endogenous capabilities, in particular in the developing countries and in the context of International Space Year"; the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the Subcommittee's session, to complement discussions within the Subcommittee on the special theme;

8. Considers, in the context of paragraph 7 (a) (ii) above, that it is particularly urgent to implement the following recommendations:

(a) All countries should have the opportunity to use the techniques resulting from medical studies in space;

(b) Data banks at the national and regional levels should be strengthened and expanded and an international space information service should be established to function as a centre of coordination;

(c) The United Nations should support the creation of adequate training centres at the regional level, linked, whenever possible, to institutions implementing space programmes; necessary funding for the development of such centres should be made available through financial institutions;

(d) The United Nations should organize a fellowship programme through which selected graduates or post-graduates from developing countries should get in-depth, long-term exposure to space technology or applications; it is also desirable to encourage the availability of opportunities for such exposure on other bilateral and multilateral bases outside the United Nations system;

9. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should reconvene, at its twenty-ninth session, the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work;

10. Also endorses the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as endorsed by the Committee and as contained in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the report of the Working Group of the Whole; 2/

11. Decides that, during the twenty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space should be reconvened;

2/ A/AC.105/483, annex II.

12. Endorses the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1992, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications, 10/ and urges all States to make voluntary contributions to the Programme in order to enhance its effectiveness;
13. Emphasizes the urgency and importance of implementing fully the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as early as possible;
14. Takes note with interest of the offer of the Government of Chile to host a space conference, with a view to enhancing international cooperation in the context of the peaceful uses of outer space, including the applications of space science and technology;
15. Reaffirms its approval of the recommendation of the Conference regarding the establishment and strengthening of regional mechanisms of cooperation and their promotion and creation through the United Nations system;
16. Expresses its appreciation to all Governments that have made or expressed their intention to make contributions towards carrying out the recommendations of the Conference;
17. Invites all Governments to take effective action for the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;
18. Requests all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations working in the field of outer space or on space-related matters to cooperate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;
19. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;
20. Urges Member States, international organizations and other funding sources to support the activities of the United Nations as part of International Space Year, 1992;
21. Reiterates its recommendation that Member States, in planning their activities for International Space Year, consider ways in which those activities could complement the efforts under way for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development planned for 1992;
22. Recommends that in 1992 the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should dedicate at least one meeting of their regular sessions to International Space Year;

10/ See A/AC.105/478, sects. I and III.

23. Recommends that more attention be paid to all aspects related to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment;

24. Considers that it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions with space debris and other aspects of space debris, and calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, and that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in order to allow it to follow this area more closely;

25. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States to provide information on their national research on space debris to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee;

26. Also considers that space debris could be an appropriate subject for in-depth discussion by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the future;

27. Urges all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes;

28. Takes note of the views expressed during the thirty-fourth session of the Committee and during the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly concerning ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes;

29. Requests the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

30. Also requests the Committee to continue to consider, at its thirty-fifth session, its agenda item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status";

31. Requests the specialized agencies and other international organizations to continue and, where appropriate, enhance their cooperation with the Committee and to provide it with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

32. Requests the Committee to continue its work, in accordance with the present resolution, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.